



SENEGAL



INTRODUCTION

The French began to expand onto the Senegalese mainland in the second half of the 19th century and made it a French colony. The French colonies of Senegal and French Sudan were merged in 1959 and granted independence in 1960 as the Mali Federation. The union broke up after only a few months. Senegal joined with The Gambia to form the nominal confederation of Senegambia in 1982. The envisaged integration of the two countries was never implemented, and the union was dissolved in 1989.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Macky SALL

Head of Government

President Macky SALL

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Dakar

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or *Assemblée Nationale* (165 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 196,722 sq km
Land: 192,530 sq km
Water: 4,192 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; rainy season (May to November) has strong southeast winds; dry season (December to April) dominated by hot, dry, harmattan wind

Natural Resources

fish, phosphates, iron ore

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

lower middle-income, services-driven West African economy; key mining, construction, agriculture, and fishing industries; tourism and exports hit hard by COVID-19; large informal economy; developing offshore oil and gas fields; systemic corruption

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$55.26 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$3,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - agricultural and fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, zircon and gold mining, construction materials, ship construction and repair

Agricultural products - groundnuts, watermelons, rice, sugarcane, cassava, millet, maize, onions, sorghum, vegetables

Exports \$2.362 billion (2017 est.)

gold, refined petroleum, phosphoric acid, fish, ground nuts (2019)

partners: Mali 22%, Switzerland 14%, India 9%, China 7% (2019)

Imports \$5.217 billion (2017 est.)

refined and crude petroleum, rice, cars, malt extract, clothing and apparel (2019)

partners: China 17%, France 11%, Belgium 7%, Russia 7%, Netherlands 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

16.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.25% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Wolof 39.7%, Pular 27.5%, Serer 16%, Mandinka 4.9%, Jola 4.2%, Soninke 2.4%, other 5.4% (includes Europeans and persons of Lebanese descent) (2019 est.)

Language

French (official), Wolof, Pular, Jola, Mandinka, Serer, Soninke

Religion

Muslim 97.2% (most adhere to one of the four main Sufi brotherhoods), Christian 2.7% (mostly Roman Catholic) (2019 est.)

